



Matthew 7:21-29, Luke 6:46-49

Aim: to learn from Jesus that we should be putting all the things he tells us in to practice



Jesus was a wonderful story teller! The stories Jesus crafted to deliver deep truths and to unpack wise teachings were often confusing to adults yet simple enough to speak to the youngest of children. That, in a way, could be said of the whole gospel message. In today's story, in a parable packed with imagery and meaning we hear of 2 men; one wise, one... not so. The truth will resonate with any child who has ever built a sand castle, only to witness the tide coming in and washing it away, whilst many adults will be in danger of missing the point entirely. Jesus was speaking to 'the crowd', not to a few of his disciples when he shared this story. This message is for all who have ears to hear. In the parable he stated that a wise person not only hears but also puts what he has learned into practice; that person not only builds the house but lays firm foundations on solid ground. If not, when testing comes the house won't withstand it, much like our faith. Jesus wants to see the evidence of our faith. As the saying goes: Actions speak louder than words.



Play Simon Says or Do This, Do that

Sing Incy Wincy Spider together (with actions)

Poor old Incy Wincy Spider! I'm glad the sunshine came out so that Incy Wincy Spider could climb the spout again. Sometimes the rain washes things out. I'm glad that we don't live in drain pipes! We might get washed out like Incy Wincy when the rain pours down!



Today's story is one of Jesus's stories that he made up to help people understand how to live a wise life. I need your help in the story today. I need rain! Can you help me make the sound of a rain storm? (Practise making raindrop noises with your fingers from quiet to loud then to respond to your stop signal.) Great, we are ready to listen to the story. Read Jesus the story teller, pg. 155. Encourage the children to create a storm at the appropriate time during the story.

Thank you for your help. I love this story! I hope you did, too!



- *I wonder how the foolish builder felt when he watched his house fall down*
- *I wonder how the wise builder felt when the rain started*
- *I wonder how I can show Jesus I really love him*



Read: The House that went Splat by Steph Williams (2-4yrs)

Set up two construction experiments building 'houses' with toy bricks (not lego!) in something like an empty cat-litter tray. Build one on a large level rock and one on a pile of sand. Watch what happens when you pour water over the building. Discuss why Jesus used this as an illustration and what kind of things could be represented by the solid rock

Give everyone a bag containing 5-10 pieces of lego and ask them to construct a tower whilst thinking about what each brick represents in living a 'solid rock' life



- **Water and sand play:** Let children explore the nature of sand and water as they enjoy a free play activity with sand and water. Adult supervision necessary.



- **Rain maker instrument workshop:** There are lots of ways to make instruments with little ones. Visit <https://team-cartwright.com/easy-musical-instruments/> for five great musical making ideas
- **Play Simon Says or Do This, Do that** to remind children that Jesus wants us to **follow through** on his
- **Outdoor Jenga, or building blocks play.** Make big building blocks with clean empty food boxes. You could build on piles of leaves outdoors in Autumn or soft snow in winter.



Let's practice signs for 'wise' and 'foolish' to use in our prayer today.

Wise: Do a thumbs up sign with one hand and draw it across your forehead with the palm facing out.

Foolish: Use the same fist hand but make a wiggly movement across your forehead as the hand crosses your head.

(both actions are used in the [wiseman built song video](#))

Let's Pray. Use the signs when I say the words 'Wise' and 'foolish'

Dear Lord Jesus,

Thank you for your wise words

Help us to follow your wise words

Help us not to be foolish

We want to grow wise

As we follow you.

Amen (arms rolling upwards and out for a slow loud 'amen').



- The Wiseman built his house upon the rock with Makaton signs: <https://youtu.be/YXKQgUMf2fQ>
- Don't build your house on the sandy land <https://youtu.be/aHebXur4cdg>



Encourage families to play 'Do this, do that' or 'Simon Says' at home making it a fun tidying up game e.g. jump to the toy basket, crawl to the bin, hop to the box with the blanket etc.

Watch a video clip of the parable together:

<https://youtu.be/Mt5PBQINfBc>